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COMMITTEE BUSINESS.

Following are given condensed versions of the reports made by the chairmen of the several committees at the Pittsburgh meeting.

COMMITTEE ON CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

Burton E. Livingston, Chairman.

At a meeting of the Committee at Pittsburgh it was decided that the preliminary survey of the field of climatic conditions, as represented by the symposium at the New York meeting, has been carried as far as is practically possible at the present time, and that this general line of activity be discontinued for the present.

The Committee recommends the appointment of a special committee on light, with Dr. D. T. MacDougal as chairman, empowered to appoint the other members of the committee and to define its field.

On its own recommendation the Committee on Climatic Conditions has been reduced in size, for the sake of greater efficiency of action in the new phase of work now taken up. The present personnel of the committee is B. E. Livingston, O. E. Baker, Ellsworth Huntington, A. S. Pearse, Forrest Shreve, J. Warren Smith.

The committee offers to members of the Society, criticism and suggestion regarding any manuscript dealing with climatic conditions that may be sent to it. Papers will be referred to all members of the committee and returned to the

author with the suggestions made. If the author so desires, he may incorporate any of the suggestions and return the paper a second time to the committee. If this revision meets with the approval of a majority of the committee, the author may publish with the paper a note stating that it was prepared with the advisory co-operation of the Committee on Climatic Conditions of the Ecological Society of America. Such papers are then to be reprinted by the Society and distributed to the members. This plan should help existing journals, should raise the quality of papers, especially as regards interpretation and presentation, and it should give papers in the series a better status than they might otherwise attain. This plan would give to the Society some of the advantages possessed by the publishing of a journal, and it would give to the authors of the papers the criticism of seven of their colleagues in advance of publication. If the plan seems satisfactory after trial, and if the number of such papers becomes large enough, it may be desirable to restrict their distribution to a subscription list or to raise the annual dues, to pay the cost of the reprints. This matter should be in mind as the scheme works out. Two such papers are promised for the near future. The committee still holds itself ready to aid in any possible way toward the further advance in knowledge or appreciation of climatic conditions as they influence animlas and plants. Suggestions and proposals should be addressed to the chairman.

The report of this committe was unanimously accepted. Dr. D. T. MacDougal was appointed as chairman to organize a committee on Light. The use of the funds of the Society was authorized for the reprinting and distribution of any papers that are published in accordance with the plan outlined.

COMMITTEE ON THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL CONDITIONS.

Victor E. Shelford, Chairman.

The work of the Committee on the Preservation of Natural Conditions for Ecological Study has consisted largely in the listing of areas of ecological interest which are now under ownership or management that assures their preserva-

tion, and of areas which should be preserved. The chairman is building up a file of cards giving information about the natural features of areas that have been reocmmended, together with facts that will be useful in planning to secure their preservation. About 125 areas are described on the 200 cards now in hand. The active oc-operation of every member of the Society is requested in the effort to secure information about additional areas which it may be possible to preserve.

The committee was influential in securing the preservation of the Skokie Marsh area, near Chicago. Action is being considered with regard to the pasturing of preserves. Although the war has prevented final action for the preservation of certain areas, it is hoped that it may be possible to prevent their destruction or despoilation.

The report of this committee was unanimously accepted, and a motion passed authorizing its continuation. At the request of the chairman, the secretary will send to each member of the Society, one of the cards for enrolling areas desirable for preservation. Additional cards may be secured on application to Dr. Shelford or to the secretary.

COMMITTEE ON SUCCESSION.

C. C. Adams, Chairman.

After a survey of its prospective field, this committee decided that it would not be able, at this time, to prosecute a useful line of work with respect to the organization of either ideas or investigations on succession. The chairman requested that the committee be discharged.

In accordance with the request of the chairman, it was unanimously voted to discharge this committee.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC INSECT ENTOMOLOGY

Thomas J. Headlee, Chairman.

The committee has taken that its commission was to formulate the ecological needs of economic entomology and has prepared the following statement from the point of view of ecology as a hand-maid of economic entomology. The com-

mittee feels, however, that better results would be apt to follow the work of a committee appointed to formulate the interrelationship of these two branches of science.

The committee has agreed that the following ecological needs of economic entomology are among the most import ant:

1. Provision for adequate courses in insect physiology in institutions where entomologists are trained.

2. Employment of an insect physiologist, in full sympathy with field work, as a member of the research staff of large and well developed departments of economic entomology.

3. Determination of the factors which underlie distribution, association, competition, and succession of plant species.

4. Determination of the principles which underlie the influence of the following factors of the physical and biotic environment of economic insects, temperature, moisture, pressure, atmospheric movements, light, physical and chemical character of the soil, inter-relation of the economic insect and its plant and animal associates.

5. Planning of ecological studies and the statement of results with due regard to their relation to human welfare.

6. The utilization of important economic species of insects as material for ecological studies.

7. Demonstration of the bearing of the associational phase of ecology to the work of the economic entomologist.

The report of this committee was unanimously accepted. As the presentation of the recommendations in this report constituted the chief purpose of the committee its reappointment was not requested.

The reports of the remaining committees will be given in the next issue of the Buletin.